

**SCHAKOWSKY HAILS ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT CONGRESSWOMAN SAYS SENTIMENT FOR PEACE WAS CLEARLY APPARENT DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL**

EVANSTON, IL U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), who returned earlier in the week from Israel, today hailed the agreement reached between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. The agreement lays out a timetable to achieving final peace within one year.

Schakowsky called the signing of a revised version of the Wye River accord a positive step towards reaching comprehensive peace in the region and lasting security for Israel.□

Schakowsky said, "During my recent visit to Israel, the overwhelming sentiment from government officials and others was clear it is time for peace.□ I strongly believe that today's agreement is a major milestone in reaching comprehensive peace in the region. It is also a critical step forward towards ensuring the lasting security of Israel and its citizens.□ □

"I am also hopeful that today's action will open the lines of communications between Israel and its neighbors, especially Syria and Lebanon, and further the cause of peace.

"It is now the responsibility of the United States Congress to help build that lasting peace and security by appropriating the necessary funds to implement the Wye River agreement.□ That is the message that my colleagues and I heard during our lengthy meetings with Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chairman Arafat.

"As we approach the next millennium, I am encouraged that more than half a century of conflict could finally come to an end."